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Claim Amendments:

Rewrite claim 1 and add the new claims 6-9 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A composite polymeric material having high resistance to impact energy comprising pre-expanded beads of polypropylene dispersed in a polymerized resinous matrix selected from the group consisting of melaminic resin, phenolic resin, polyurethane resin and mixtures thereof, wherein the polymerized resin matrix substantially fills the voids among the pre-expanded polypropylene beads, the polypropylene beads being pre-expanded prior to the polymerization of the resin matrix, the pre-expanded polypropylene beads being substantially positioned ~~adjacent one to the others~~ mutually adjacent to one another.

2. (original) The material according to claim 1 wherein the resinous matrix is a polyurethane resin obtained by polycondensation of an isocyanate or polyisocyanate with a compound containing active hydrogen.

3. (original) The material according to claim 2, wherein the isocyanate or polyisocyanate and the active hydrogen containing compound have a polymerization time higher than 30 seconds.

4. (original) An impact-resistant manufactured article including a composite polymeric material having high resistance to impact energy according to claim 1.

5. (original) The impact-resistant manufactured article according to claim 4, wherein said article is an inner protective liner of a helmet.

6. (new) The material according to claim 1, wherein the pre-expanded polypropylene beads have a substantially uniform distribution.

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7. (new) The material according to claim 1, wherein the pre-expanded polypropylene beads have not been melted or broken down by said polymerized resin matrix.

8. (new) The material according to claim 1, wherein the pre-expanded polypropylene beads comprise air.

9. (new) The material according to claim 1, wherein the polymerized resin matrix has a cellular structure with cells internally containing the pre-expanded polypropylene beads.